Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Rural communities are special places to live and work where people know each other and work together to benefit the community; and,

Whereas, Ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America where 20 percent of the nation's population lives but nearly 60 percent of all trauma deaths occur; and,

Whereas, Rural communities face unique challenges including accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens; and,

Whereas, Rural hospitals and health systems are often the economic foundation of their communities as well as the largest employers; and,

Whereas, The South Dakota Department of Health's Office of Rural Health administers programs, such as the Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program, help communities and facilities recruit healthcare professionals; and,

Whereas, The office administers the emergency medical services program, a trauma care system and a statewide trauma registry that involves all hospitals and emergency medical services in the state; and,

Whereas, The mission of the Office of Rural Health is to improve the delivery of health services to rural and medically underserved areas; and,

Whereas, The Office of Rural Health, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders play a critical role in addressing the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens; and,

Whereas, National Rural Health Day will be celebrated throughout America on November 19, 2015:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2015, as

SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL HEALTH DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State